

## CONTENTION MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD

### ABSTRACT

A contention management apparatus and method includes a network and more than one MFP connected to the network. A contention controller is  
5 connected to the network and through the network to the more than one MFP. The contention controller is configured to direct output from an MFP in contention to an idle MFP. In a preferred embodiment, contention controller includes a database of networked MFPs and a user priority list of MFPs for use when contention occurs.

09847878-050204  
FOI 09847878-050204